Planning Commission's Comment on NREP in West Bengal

1842. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM; DR. R. K. PODDAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are aware of the comments made by the Planning Commission that NREP work is being done with less expenditure in West Bengal because of active public participation through Panchayat system; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI); (a) and (b) Programme Evaluation Organisation of the Planning Commission has conducted an evaluation study on implementation of the National Rujral Employment Programme (NREP) in nine States, including West Bengal. Case studies were also conducted by this Organisation in Bihar and Orissa. The study reveals that in West Bengal, the programme is implemented through three tier Panchayati Raj system, i.e. Zilla Parishad at the didstrict level, Pan-chayat Samiti at the block level and the Gram Panchayat at the village level. There is no specific comment in the study report that implementation of NREP in West Bengal is carried out with less expenditure or economically. The guidelines issued by the Government of India have always emphasised the importance of associating the Panchayati Raj institutions in the implementation of rural development programmes.

Development and Expansion of Sugar Industry

1843. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Rs. 97 crores have been sanctioned to 83 sugar factories for their development and expansion;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether Government have issued letters of intent and licences for setting up 17 new sugar factories, and 16 factories have been sanctioned loan on soft terms for modernisation and expansion; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard, State-wise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) A sum of Rs. 97 crore has been sanctioned for implementation of schemes aimed at development of sugarcane, to 83 sugar mills in the country.

(b) The details of the sugar mills and the amount of loan Sanctioned for development of sugarcane are as under:

Name of State	No. of sugar mills sanctioned loan	Amount of loan sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
Maharashtra .	43	3736.13
Tamil Nadu .	14	2666.05
Andhra Pradesh	14	1551.47
Haryana . .	7	1284.01
Madhya Pradesh	2	138.73
Punjab . .	1	243.86
Uttar Pradesh .	1	26.26
Assam . . .	1	55.62

(c) and (d) Proposals for setting up 17 new sugar units in 4 States have been approved. Out of these